

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
Nomination Hearing
April 12, 2005
Opening Statement
Senator Richard Burr**

Chairman Stevens and Senator Inouye, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Bill Cobey of Durham, North Carolina, and am here today to fully endorse his nomination to the board of the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority.

It should be noted that Bill was elected to the House of Representatives in 1984 and served with Senator McCain, Senator Lott, Senator Snowe, Senator Dorgan and Senator Boxer, all current members of the Commerce Committee, as Members of the House in the 98th Congress.

While Bill's well-documented service to our state and country (as a Congressman, Cabinet Secretary in Raleigh, and public university advocate) qualify him for a position on the Authority's board, I believe it will be his background as athletic director at one of the nation's most successful university's that will best serve the mission of the board.

Athletic directors are known for their tenacity in raising money and support for capital improvement projects, and his success at the University and the success the school's athletic program enjoys today are the direct result of capital campaigns undertaken by the school during his tenure as athletic director. His wealth of knowledge in these endeavors and deep reservoir of people skills will position the Authority well as it prepares current and future capital improvements at Reagan and Dulles airports.

I look forward to the Committee favorably reporting out Bill's nomination and I will be honored to cast my vote for him when the nomination is considered by the whole Senate.